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Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1993

SUMMARY

The present report brings to the attention of the Committee on Programme and Coordination and of the Economic and Social Council an overview of the activities of ACC since the end of its first regular session of 1993. It outlines the outcome of ACC's consideration of a number of policy issues, particularly those related to resource flows and financing for development, the World Summit for Social Development, the agenda for development, the follow-up to UNCED and further action taken to enhance the effectiveness of its subsidiary machinery. It also provides information on action undertaken by the organizations of the Untied Nations system in relation to countries invoking article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations and the results of the twenty-seventh series of joint meetings of CPC and ACC. Operational activities for development and financial, administrative and personnel questions continue to receive ACC's attention, and the outcome of its deliberations on those issues are reflected in the present report, which also outlines the elements of ACC's programme in 1994.

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FOREWORD BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The present document is the third annual overview report submitted by ACC since I have assumed the Chairmanship of the Committee as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I am greatly encouraged by the support expressed in the Economic and Social Council for the process of reform of the working methods of ACC and the streamlining of its subsidiary machinery, covered in last year's report. Indeed, the reform is beginning to bear fruit. It is leading to greater efficiency in the work of ACC subsidiary bodies and is contributing to more effective preparations for, and greater selectivity and focus in, the work of ACC itself.

I trust that ACC will, as a result, be of greater service to Member States in ensuring that the activities of United Nations organizations respond in a more coherent and effective way to their changing requirements.

As noted in this report, the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) has continued to be a main focus in the work of ACC. It is essential that the momentum created in Rio should be maintained. It is equally important to ensure that the forthcoming global conferences - from the Population Conference to the Social Summit to the World Conference on Women - build on each other as well as on the outcome of UNCED and serve to establish more comprehensive frameworks for coordinating the development work of the system.

A basic challenge before ACC, cutting across the objectives of each of those conferences, is to introduce new, more effective ways of addressing increasingly complex, multisectoral issues. In so doing, full advantage must be taken of the specific mandates and different contributions of the various agencies comprising the system. At the same time, new modalities must be developed to ensure that those contributions complement and reinforce each other and serve to promote comprehensive approaches to development in all its interrelated dimensions.

This requires a commitment to the strengthening of inter-agency coordination at all levels.

The present report is a further indication of the continuing attention which the ACC machinery is giving, together with global issues, to the crucial objective of improved coordination at the country level. Recent General Assembly decisions, emphasizing the importance which Member States attach to improving the efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system at the national level are providing the necessary intergovernmental direction to these efforts. A further strengthening of the resident coordinator system is a crucial objective.

While these various initiatives are being pursued, I have set in motion a renewed dialogue with executive heads on the requirements and conditions for improved coordination at the regional level, drawing on the potentially important - but so far only partially utilized - role that the regional commissions can play as catalysts for more coherent system-wide regional strategies. One of my main concerns is to mobilize regional resources in support of global development and to exploit fully the opportunities that exist for regional approaches and solutions to the development problems being addressed by the system.

The last chapter of this report outlines the range of issues to be addressed by ACC in the coming months. The views and comments of member States on the work accomplished in the past year and on the orientation of ACC's future activities will provide essential guidance to the Committee's work.

INTRODUCTION

1. The annual overview report for 1992 covered, on an exceptional basis, not only the work of ACC for that year but also decisions taken at the first regular session of 1993. The present report therefore covers the outcome of the work of ACC since the end of its first regular session in 1993. The report takes up, in section I, policy issues related to resource flows and finance for development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Agenda for Development. Sections II and III deal with follow-up to the conclusions of ACC at its first regular session of 1993 on the functioning of ACC and its subsidiary machinery, and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Section IV contains a discussion of the outcome of the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination. Section V deals with operational activities for development; section VI, with assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations; and Section VII, with financial, administrative and personnel issues. Section VIII highlights elements of ACC's programme in 1994.

I. POLICY ISSUES RELATED TO RESOURCE FLOWS AND FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT, THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

2. Over the past two years, ACC has addressed key issues on the international agenda and their impact on the United Nations system, under different agenda items relating to the role of the system in the context of the new challenges of the 1990s, the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and emergency and humanitarian assistance and the continuum to development. The outcome of ACC consideration of these items was covered in the annual overview reports for 1991 and 1992.

3. At its second regular session of 1993, ACC had a wide-ranging discussion which focused on policy issues cutting across the themes of resource flows and financing for development, the World Summit for Social Development, and the Agenda for Development.

4. Opening the discussions, the Secretary-General reviewed some of the challenges facing the United Nations in the post-cold-war period, in fulfilment of its Charter responsibilities for the promotion of economic and social development. These included a widening gap between rich and poor countries; globalization trends that made it impossible for any State - or group of States - wholly to control its economic and social environment; and development aid "fatigue", reflected in the stagnation of official development assistance (ODA) flows in real terms at half the 0.7 per cent target of the United Nations.

5. Given these trends, the expansion of demands on United Nations organizations, and the multiplication of urgent, short-term needs that tended to divert attention from long-term development, the elaboration of operational priorities at the level of the system was, in the view of the Secretary-General, increasingly essential.

6. A number of key characteristics of the current situation and their policy implications emerged from the discussions:

(a) Financial flows and the shift in production capacities and associated technologies had escaped the effective control of even the most powerful States. International migration had increased vastly, creating new social tensions. Environmental deterioration, the spread of pandemics and the international drug trade created a crisis of public policy and pointed towards the inescapable necessity of global cooperation;

(b) Yet, ODA continued to stagnate in real terms. Aid flows from oil-exporting countries had decreased and countries of the former Soviet Union had become recipients rather than providers of aid;

(c) The share of ODA going through multilateral institutions had declined, although multilateral non-concessional lending had increased. Although foreign direct investment flows to developing countries had grown substantially and were likely to continue to expand in the future, the low-income and least developed countries, particularly those in Africa, were attracting only a minimal amount of such flows;

(d) The political realities underlying development cooperation had changed radically. With the end of the cold war, some of the incentives for providing ODA, arising from bloc rivalries, had disappeared. It was essential that a more enduring rationale for ODA should emerge, in the context of a broader, more comprehensive framework for international development cooperation;

(e) The number of claimants for ODA had increased, and urgent, short-term demands for emergency and humanitarian relief assistance had escalated with the increase in natural and man-made emergencies. Some 19 million refugees and some 28 million internally displaced persons in the world needed assistance. In the past five years the share of all contributions to United Nations funds and programmes for relief assistance had risen from 18 per cent to 33 per cent; and the United Nations budget for peace-keeping had more than doubled, from $1.4 billion in 1992 to an estimated $3.6 billion in 1993.

7. In light of those trends, a number of policy conclusions affecting development cooperation in general, and the United Nations system, in particular, emerged from the discussions:

(a) Development was not only a prerequisite for international peace and security but was the only durable, equitable and cost-effective way of preventing conflicts. A much more comprehensive approach to security was called for. Ways must also be found to strengthen the linkages between short-term humanitarian needs and longer-term development goals, particularly in conflict situations. Preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peace-building should be woven into the two ends of the continuum, from relief to rehabilitation and development;

(b) Equally critical was the need to change the international trading conditions faced by the low-income countries, which were steadily losing their share in world trade. It was also essential to improve commodity prices, open

markets to exports from those countries and ensure fair trading conditions for them, since gains from trade could far outweigh, at least in the medium term, the benefits of the aid to be received;

(c) There was a strong economic argument for investment in developing countries. A significant number of such countries had become a new engine of growth in the world economy, at a time when Western industrial economies were in recession and the transition economies were showing a large decline in incomes. Fast-growing developing countries had provided by far the most rapidly expanding markets for the exports of the industrial economies, and a greater integration of developing countries into the global economy would be of great benefit for all groups of countries;

(d) In the light of the experience that well-designed programmes by countries with strong management records attract appropriate financing, one of the priorities for inter-agency collaboration should be to assist developing countries to improve their design and overall management capacities. Also extremely important potentially was the role that United Nations organizations, working together, could play in assisting countries to integrate a strong social component into the conceptualization, design and implementation of reform programmes;

(e) There was clear need for a higher share of ODA to be allocated to low-income and the least developed countries, particularly those in Africa, which had difficulty in attracting foreign direct investment to revive growth and development and had only limited opportunities in the short term for gains from trade liberalization;

(f) A greater share of ODA resources should likewise be devoted to the social sector, particularly for rural development and the eradication of poverty, and for disadvantaged and marginalized groups. Market forces and traditional policies had proved unable to address social problems at their roots. Innovative policies and new partnerships with civil society and local grass-root non-governmental organizations (NGOs) needed to be developed in order to promote participatory development within the framework of national priorities;

(g) A greater emphasis needed to be placed on transboundary and regional approaches to development, particularly in those areas such as environment, climate, communications and water resources, where cooperative solutions were essential;

(h) During a period of recession in many industrial countries, allocations to ODA were competing with domestic and other needs. Donors insisted on the most efficient use of resources and demonstrable results from the United Nations system and recipient countries alike. If the system used systematic and coordinated approaches which avoided fragmentary and partial responses to development problems, its credibility could only be enhanced and public support would be strengthened in donor countries for multilateral development cooperation;

(i) The record of the United Nations system in development cooperation included many success stories that needed to be better projected. Greater efforts should be made to create a more positive and balanced public image of the United Nations, encompassing not only political and peace-keeping activities but also its economic and social achievements. Current reforms in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations and ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of operational activities should also, if well projected, help foster greater public support for the development role of the system;

(j) Collaboration between the specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions should be pursued in the light of these new imperatives. The impression that the financial institutions focused exclusively on economic efficiency and the specialized agencies on social solidarity needed to be corrected and a common approach developed, based on rigorous analysis and shared values of efficiency and solidarity, designed to promote human-centred sustainable development. More generally, new partnerships should be developed among the organizations of the system, based on a concentration of efforts and full utilization of the competences and technical capacities of each organization;

(k) The World Summit for Social Development and the forthcoming agenda for development should be viewed as instruments to promote enhanced system-wide cooperation and introduce a more comprehensive framework for addressing global socio-economic problems and facilitating the mobilization of human and financial resources for development;

(l) The World Summit should concern itself with issues that lie at the intersection of the economic and social sectors and with the relationship between society and development. It should deal with the social crisis of the 1990s from a global perspective, addressing the critical social problems experienced by all countries and regions of the world, whatever their level of development. It should be seen as a continuation of UNCED which created the awareness that global problems required global solutions and that sustainable development was a shared responsibility; given the global nature of social problems, it should provide an additional rationale for international cooperation for development;

(m) The agenda for development should also provide a working framework for a more comprehensive approach by the system to development cooperation. It should serve as a counterpart to the Agenda for Peace, linking sustainable, people-centred development and global peace and security.

8. ACC agreed that, following these preliminary conclusions, it would carry out, at its first regular session of 1994, a further examination of issues relating to the division of labour within the United Nations system and the system's access to resources.

II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF ACC AT ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 1993 ON THE FUNCTIONING OF ACC AND ITS SUBSIDIARY MACHINERY

9. In 1992, ACC undertook a comprehensive review of its own functioning and the structure of its subsidiary machinery. The review was part of an overall effort to enhance policy coordination and coherence in the work of the United Nations system and bring about a more integrated approach to peace-building and economic and social development, responsive to the new challenges which the 1990s posed for international cooperation.

10. A number of measures have since been put into practice to improve ACC's working methods, including the development of more focused agendas for its meetings, with improved preparations leading to policy-oriented discussions and concrete conclusions. Procedures were also put in place for mutual consultations among executive heads on major initiatives. The review also led to a considerable streamlining and rationalization of the ACC subsidiary machinery which should not only result in cost savings but also enhance the coherence and effectiveness of the work undertaken by these bodies. The annual overview report of ACC for 1992, provided detailed information on the outcome of that review (E/1993/81).

11. At the level of the ACC's subsidiary machinery, the establishment of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) (resulting from the merger of two separate committees dealing with programme matters and operational activities and the consolidation of the mandates of a number of other previous inter-agency coordination mechanisms such as the ACC Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives) is facilitating a coordinated mobilization of the system's analytical, normative and operational capacities for economic and social development. The Committee has, inter alia, reviewed and approved the system-wide action plan for international drug abuse control, contributed to ongoing discussions on the coordination of humanitarian assistance (emergency relief and the continuum of rehabilitation and development), pursued the development of strategic guidelines for an integrated approach to poverty alleviation, and has assumed a lead role in the preparation for the ACC discussions on the division of labour within the United Nations system and the system's access to resources, referred to in paragraph 8 above. Improved coordination of substantive support for ACC is also expected to result from the attribution to CCPOQ of overview responsibilities for the ACC Subcommittee on Nutrition, together with the Subcommittee on Drug Control, Rural Development and Statistical Activities.

12. For its part, during 1993, the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) devoted considerable attention to working out processes for the coordination and sharing of responsibilities among the organizations of the system relating to the follow-up of Agenda 21, on the basis of overall guidelines and principles identified by ACC. The Committee also continued to pay attention to the need for new and additional financing for the implementation of Agenda 21. IACSD considered that this work, though undertaken in the specific context of the follow-up to UNCED, could also provide useful inputs for the broader consideration, by CCPOQ and ACC, of issues relating to the division of labour within the system and the system's access to resources.

13. A specific area to which ACC devoted close attention, in the context of its review of the functioning of the ACC machinery, relates to information-sharing. Following an initial review of the work of the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), ACC, at its first regular session in 1993, decided to establish a Senior-level Task Force to review and make policy recommendations on:

(a) Enhanced dissemination and exchange of relevant information between Member States (including permanent missions) and the United Nations system, as well as among United Nations agencies;

(b) Ways and means of harmonizing and improving United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility;

(c) The status of information technology in the United Nations system and related technologies and standards;

(d) The roles and structures of ACCIS and ICC;

(e) Information needs of ACC and its standing committees.

14. The Task Force considered the various types of media used for information dissemination and examined several alternatives for the network infrastructure needed for electronic access to United Nations information systems. The current status and future trends of database technology, together with requirements for administrative and operational simplicity, were also reviewed. The Task Force recommended that, in the future, the United Nations system should concentrate its efforts on the use of interlinked distributed information systems.

15. A main focus of the Task Force's work was the strengthening of the coordination of information systems technology and services within the United Nations system, in support of better coordinated and more effective programmes and as a means of achieving economies and enhancing efficiency. It recommended the establishment of a new inter-agency body focusing on these objectives and the provision of advice to ACC on medium- and long-term strategies on information systems and services. Such a body would replace ACCIS and would have the task of developing standards and recommending practices on information technology and services for use by the United Nations system.

16. As far as the International Computing Centre is concerned, the Task Force recommended that consideration be given to broadening the mandate and scope of the Centre to serve as an information management service centre and providing information-based services, including some of the services hitherto provided by ACCIS, on a cost-recovery basis. The Task Force stressed that close coordination between the new body and ICC would be essential.

17. ACC endorsed the broad thrust of the conclusions of the Task Force. It concurred with the recommendation of the Task Force that, considering resource constraints and demands, United Nations organizations should extend the accessibility of publicly available information via telecommunication networks (using pilot projects where applicable), subject to adequate billing and control mechanisms. It also endorsed the Task Force's recommendation that different

mechanisms should be utilized to, on the one hand, advise and support ACC in the exercise of responsibilities with regard to the coordination of information systems and services and, on the other, undertake operational tasks such as publications and databases, as required.

18. In the light of the above, ACC decided to discontinue ACCIS and to establish an Information Systems Coordination Committee (ISCC), reporting to ACC through its Organizational Committee. 1/ The Committee would have as members United Nations-system organizations participating in ACC, represented by individuals who have a comprehensive understanding of information management issues and related technologies. It would work extensively with electronic means and would be supported by a small secretariat, along the lines of the secretariats of CCAQ and CCPOQ.

III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

19. At its second regular session in 1993, ACC welcomed the progress made by the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) in the allocation and sharing of responsibilities among the organizations of the United Nations system for the implementation of Agenda 21. It fully supported the emphasis placed by IACSD on the need for additional financing to carry out the new mandates emanating from Agenda 21. It also noted the additional burden of reporting placed on the organizations of the system resulting from the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development and emphasized that the priority of the system should continue to be the effective implementation of Agenda 21. It further considered that reports should focus on the process of cooperation and networking in the implementation of programmes in relation to the different chapters of Agenda 21.

20. ACC will review the working arrangements for IACSD at its second regular session of 1994, in accordance with its decision adopted at its first regular session of 1993.

21. On the recommendation of IACSD, ACC decided to establish an ACC Sub-Committee on Oceans and Coastal Areas to meet the coordination needs broadly defined in chapter 17 of Agenda 21. It approved the objectives and arrangements for the functioning of the Subcommittee, as recommended by IACSD.

22. During 1993, IACSD completed the process of designation of task managers and cooperating organizations for the various chapters and programme areas of Agenda 21. The objective of that exercise was to ensure collaboration and cooperation in the follow-up to Agenda 21, including reporting on its implementation by the United Nations system.

23. The task managers would assist IACSD, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, in ensuring a coordinated contribution of the United Nations system to the implementation of Agenda 21 in specific areas of the multi-year thematic programme of work established by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Their main responsibilities and functions would be to strengthen and, where necessary, establish a network of collaboration among the relevant

organizations and develop a regular flow of information among them on both ongoing and future activities; maintain frequent and intensive consultation among the organizations concerned; play a catalytic role in joint activities and programmes relating to thematic issues; develop, in collaboration with other organizations and the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, common strategies for the implementation by the United Nations system of Agenda 21 in their respective areas of competence; and prepare, in collaboration with concerned organizations, coordinated inputs for the consolidated analytical reports of the Secretary-General, focusing on common United Nations system strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, and identify areas for further action for consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

A. Progress achieved in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

24. The organizations of the United Nations system continued, individually and collectively, to carry out programme activities in their respective areas of competence in response to Agenda 21. During 1993, IACSD reviewed the progress achieved in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) on the basis of reports from the various task managers and other organizations.

25. In the area of toxic chemicals, it was noted that intensive inter-agency consultations were under way to expand and strengthen the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), established jointly by UNEP, WHO, and ILO as the coordination framework for carrying out the tasks required for the follow-up of chapter 19 of Agenda 21. An International Conference on Chemical Safety was being convened by IPCS in Stockholm to consider the establishment of an intergovernmental forum in chemical safety. A comprehensive inventory of the activities being undertaken by the United Nations system, OECD and the European Union in the six programme areas of chapter 19 was prepared.

26. With regard to hazardous wastes, UNEP indicated that the secretariat of the Basel Convention, the main framework for inter-agency cooperation in that area, had become operational and was undertaking coordination activities. A cooperative programme for the implementation of Agenda 21 in that field was being developed and a consultative meeting was planned for early 1994 to finalize the programme.

27. On protection of the marine environment, UNEP reported that a preliminary meeting of experts to assess the effectiveness of regional seas agreements had been held in Nairobi from 6 to 10 December 1993. Negotiations were under way with national partners and regional seas secretariats on the preparation of national surveys, regional overviews, and regional control strategies. With regard to the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution, intergovernmental expert group meetings were planned for June 1994 on possible amendments to the Montreal Guidelines and in March 1995 on the finalization of a draft programme of action in that field.

28. Concerning developments relating to capacity-building and UNDP's Capacity 21 initiative, UNDP reported that consultations were being organized in

cooperation with concerned specialized agencies to carry out a review of activities relating to capacity-building and, if possible, to devise a common strategy. A programme of information had also been developed on Capacity 21 priorities and a monograph series on capacity-building for sustainable development in various sectors was being developed in collaboration with a number of United Nations partners. Some $40 million had been mobilized and were being utilized, together with resources from indicative planning figures (IPF), and global environment facilities (GEF), inter alia, for capacity-building activities and projects. At the field level, collaboration among the various organizations was being strengthened to assist developing countries in reinforcing their own coordination mechanisms for capacity-building. The UNDP Governing Council in 1993 approved the establishment of 41 sustainable development national officer posts.

29. With regard to the follow-up to chapter 6 relating to health, WHO emphasized the intersectoral nature of the issue and the broad array of activities being undertaken in that field. WHO established a task force on environment and sustainable development, comprising representatives of appropriate programmes to guide work in relation to chapter 6. The results of an international workshop on health, the environment and sustainable development organized by the Government of Denmark would also be integrated into the work of the system. WHO was collaborating with the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources on issues of water supply and sanitation and water quality management and as the executing agency of IPCS in the implementation of chapter 19.

30. With regard to science and education (chaps. 35 and 36), the strategic nature of the issues and their impact on production systems and on consumption and behaviour patterns were emphasized. An inter-agency consultation had been organized by UNESCO to launch a new phase of system-wide cooperation, although considerable work had already been undertaken in the context of the joint UNEP/UNESCO international environmental education programme. The experience gained, in that context, would be fully brought to bear on education for sustainable development. Another major new UNESCO initiative was the Interdisciplinary and inter-agency cooperative project: Environment and population education and information for human development, included in UNESCO's programme for 1994-1995 as a follow-up to chapter 36 of Agenda 21. In the area of science, UNESCO stressed that non-governmental organizations and other partners needed to be involved in developing cooperative scientific and research programmes and that close coordination should be established with UNDP's Capacity 21 initiative.

31. Regarding the cluster of land, including land management, forest and sustainable agriculture and rural development, FAO had convened two inter-agency consultations on forestry and on sustainable agriculture and rural development, in March and May 1993 respectively, and their reports had been submitted to IACSD. Non-governmental organizations had also participated in the consultations, which had raised awareness, and helped them to exchange information on activities and identify areas for closer cooperation. Electronic networks were being set up to maintain closer links among the organizations involved. Specific Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) programming activities had also been undertaken in several developing countries, and two workshops on UNCED follow-up for FAO country representatives had been

organized. In the area of biological diversity and desertification, close collaboration had been established between FAO and the ICCBD and INCD secretariats. In the area of water, the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources was developing an overall strategy for fresh water as a follow-up to Agenda 21.

32. ILO drew particular attention to its Interdepartmental Project on Environment and the World of Work - included in its regular programme and budget for 1994-1995 - which would require close collaboration with other organizations within the United Nations system. The project would focus on a limited number of countries and was aimed at supporting the efforts of the ILO tripartite constituency to contribute to the follow-up to Agenda 21 at the national level as regards the ratification and implementation of ILO working environment conventions, the management of toxic chemicals and the labour and social implications of national Agenda 21 strategies, programmes and plans.

33. UNIDO incorporated the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Agenda 21 as one of the underlying considerations in a far-reaching examination of its programme priorities and organizational structures, leading to the organizational consolidation of its environmental activities with its subsectoral technical activities and the focusing of the Organization on Environmentally Sustainable Industrial Development as one of the five development objectives it would address. UNIDO's specific efforts in 1993 concentrated on five areas:

(a) An effort was initiated to engender the adoption of low-waste clean technologies through the launching of the UNIDO/UNEP National Cleaner Production Centres Programme;

(b) In 1993, as an implementing agency for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, UNIDO initiated its activities for the phase-out of chloro-fluorocarbons through plant-level activities in several countries;

(c) UNIDO consolidated its energy-related programmes and will increasingly concentrate on the promotion of energy conservation efficiency fossil-fuel substitution in the industrial sector in developing countries;

(d) Having established the world's first International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, UNIDO is well placed to assist developing countries in the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity;

(e) In conjunction with UNDP and other agencies, UNIDO will engage in capacity-building for environmentally sustainable industrial development by supporting developing countries' capacities to formulate industrialization policies that incorporate environmental considerations and to access and implement the introduction of clean technologies.

34. The World Bank indicated that, in the first year following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, its financial commitments to activities in the areas of pollution, land and water and the strengthening of institutional capacities in developing countries had doubled, to $2 billion. National environmental action plans were being instituted in several countries,

and environmental assessment procedures were being developed and projects redesigned accordingly. Greater attention was being paid to the education of girls and to the question of subsidies as a means of achieving sustainable development. Conceptual and methodological issues were also being addressed. The proposed "earth increment" for the International Development Association (IDA) had however not materialized.

35. IFAD had prepared a report on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which it intended to submit to its Executive Board and subsequently to the Commission on Sustainable Development. The report, entitled "IFAD follow-up to UNCED Agenda 21: promoting a qualitative shift in operational lending towards sustainable agriculture", outlined the institutional process which the Fund had initiated to reflect the principles of sustainable development in its poverty alleviation projects. IFAD had also taken the initiative of establishing an advisory group on environment and sustainable development, the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP), to identify leverage points for coordination of JCGP activities in support of Agenda 21 at the country level.

36. The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat outlined developments in the areas of technology, decision-making structures, major groups, critical elements of sustainability and financing. A working group was being set up with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and an expert group meeting was being hosted by Norway on environmentally sound technologies.

B. Financial requirements and mechanisms

37. The meetings of IACSD continued to provide the forum for exchanges of views between funding institutions and specialized agencies regarding their cooperation in implementing Agenda 21, which required expanded activities and therefore increased funding. The need to harmonize strategies and plans at the country level, such as National Environmental Action Plans (NEAPs), national sustainable development strategies, tropical forestry action programmes and country strategy notes, was underlined. The World Bank provided an update on the status of NEAPs, and noted that they were already beginning to provide the basis for environmental investments. Some NEAPs had been discussed at Consultative Group meetings and the trend was expected to continue. UNDP briefed IACSD about its intention to carry out a programme to assist countries to harmonize national strategies.

38. IACSD emphasized the need for the organizations of the system to be more involved in the definition and design of strategies, programmes and activities to be implemented at the country level. The particular concerns of small organizations that were not represented at the country level were highlighted. Increased use of round tables and consultative group meetings by UNDP and the World Bank to better integrate financing of economic development and environmental action plans and strategies was envisaged. Similar processes at the regional level were encouraged.

39. Inter-agency coordination within GEF would be based on the "framework for collaboration", which would be included in the GEF operational phase beginning in early 1994. Much more substantive involvement of the relevant United Nations agencies was anticipated in the operational phase, compared with the pilot phase of GEF. The secretariat of GEF would disseminate information kits to all interested United Nations-system agencies. UNDP/GEF was publishing a newsletter and an operational bulletin on its activities on a regular basis. GEF information was also available through ECONET.

40. UNEP indicated that it was currently engaged in developing policies and strategies to discharge its role and responsibilities in the operational phase of GEF as one of its implementing agencies. UNEP was also reviewing the future role of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel in the operational phase; in doing so, UNEP would seek ways and means of utilizing the technical expertise in the United Nations system.

41. IACSD noted with appreciation that, in response to the concern expressed in the statement of ACC to the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development regarding the need for additional funding to meet the new mandates stemming from Agenda 21, the Commission had recognized the important role of entities within the United Nations system and had requested them to provide the Commission, at its second session, through ACC, with information regarding financial needs and priorities relevant to their respective responsibilities.

42. The Committee stressed once again the need for additional financing to carry out the new mandates emanating from Agenda 21. The reordering of priorities and the reallocation of resources which was already taking place could not meet all the requirements of Agenda 21. While noting that the financial needs of individual organizations would be reviewed by their respective governing bodies in the context of their regular budgets, the Committee considered that, in particular, activities and programmes that involved more than one agency would require additional funding. Such needs will be reported to the Commission on Sustainable Development. It was agreed that the Commission should be provided with information on additional funding requirements on a coordinated basis.

IV. OUTCOME OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SERIES OF JOINT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

43. In accordance with the decision of CPC at its thirty-second session, the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of CPC/ACC was held on 27 October 1993. It was devoted to the results of UNCED and their implications for the United Nations system.

44. The Meeting was briefed by the executive heads of UNEP and UNDP and the representatives of FAO, WHO, UNESCO, ILO, UNIDO, WIPO, UNFPA, UNCTAD, the World Bank, IFAD, IMO, WFP, and the regional commissions on the actions they were undertaking in response to Agenda 21, including the arrangements for coordination and cooperation with other organizations of the system.

45. Members of CPC expressed satisfaction at the steps undertaken by ACC under the leadership of the Secretary-General and its IACSD to establish the necessary mechanisms for a cost-effective and well-coordinated follow-up to UNCED by the United Nations system. They also noted with appreciation the information and analysis provided in the background document for the meeting.

46. Following a wide-ranging exchange of views and dialogue between members of CPC and the representatives of the organizations, the Chairman presented a summary of the discussions and the conclusions drawn from it. 2/

47. The participation in the meeting of senior officials directly responsible for the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in their respective organizations and of representatives of Governments in the CPC helped to promote a fruitful dialogue on the issues involved and contributed to a successful outcome. In light of that experience and in view of the opportunity provided by the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council for a dialogue between Governments and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, it would appear that the Joint Meetings could be most effectively organized at the level of senior official.

V. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

48. The Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions of ACC continued to give priority attention, in 1993, to the enhancement of the coherence and effectiveness of the system's operational activities for development, with particular reference to General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199 arising from the Assembly's comprehensive triennial policy reviews of operational activities for development in 1989 and 1992.

A. Work programme

49. As requested under paragraph 53 of resolution 47/199, a management process, including guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames for implementation of the resolution, was reviewed by CCPOQ at its first regular session of 1993. The work programme was periodically updated in order to take account of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/7 requesting result-oriented targets and appropriate interaction with the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

B. Resident coordinator system

50. CCPOQ welcomed the progress made by UNDP towards broadening the base for recruitment of resident coordinators: approximately 45 per cent of the coordinators currently in place had worked at some stage in another United Nations organization or had experience outside UNDP. Other practical steps to strengthen the resident coordinator system in line with resolution 47/199 were pursued through a working group of CCPOQ. The measures under consideration included the updating of the terms of reference of resident coordinators; the

provision of substantive and financial support to the resident coordinator system at the field level; implementation and monitoring of the relevant ACC guidelines; and access by the resident coordinator system to the full range of United Nations data, research and analytic capabilities. Particular attention was given to improving the quality and the use made of the annual reports of resident coordinators. The working group was scheduled to report to CCPOQ at its February 1994 session.

C. Country strategy note

51. The adoption by CCPOQ, at its first regular session of 1993, of basic principles and procedures for assisting Governments in the preparation of country strategy notes, was followed up by a workshop of selected country teams and national governmental participants, organized by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in October 1993, to identify more substantively the possible structure and contents of a country strategy note. Senior agency headquarters staff also participated in the workshop. Resulting guidance notes for the preparation, design and implementation of country strategy notes were reviewed by CCPOQ for circulation to resident coordinators in early 1994. Further review and evaluation will be based on the first generation of notes.

D. Programme approach

52. Following agreement on a system-wide common interpretation of the programme approach at its first regular session of 1993, CCPOQ addressed the issue of the implications of such an interpretation for monitoring and evaluation. A working group reviewed draft principles of an effective methodology for evaluation within the programme approach, with a view to their submission to the Economic and Social Council at the 1994 regular session. Action is also being taken to assess the implementation at the field level of the common framework for the programme approach, as requested in paragraph 5 of Council resolution E/1993/7.

E. National execution

53. In accordance with paragraph 22 of resolution 47/199, CCPOQ developed and approved, at its first regular session of 1993, a common interpretation of national execution to be applied by the United Nations system. An assessment of experience gained in the implementation, at the field level, of those guiding principles is being undertaken, for submission to the Council at its regular session in 1994, together with a review of the progress made by the United Nations system in applying national execution at the country level.

F. Decentralization

54. Following ACC's approval in September 1992 of a common framework for the system's efforts to achieve further decentralization of capacities and authorities, a CCPOQ working group pursued its analysis of different aspects of

decentralization and their implications for enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations system's operational activities. The analysis distinguished between the various mandates and responsibilities of the organizations and their governing bodies and secretariats; the appropriate headquarters and field structures for implementation of operational activities, including decentralization of staff; the delegation of authority both within headquarters structures and to the field; and the nature and distribution of funding for operational activities. Particular attention is being given to obtaining improved data on the system's financial and personnel resources for operational activities and to the potential for harmonizing and improving communication systems.

G. Training in operational activities

55. A further extension of the successful programme of field coordination management workshops for senior field representatives was approved for 1994. Some of the workshops would be oriented to countries in special situations, such as disaster-prone countries and/or those facing humanitarian emergencies. CCPOQ invited all members of the United Nations development system to view their involvement and commitment to the programme as an integral part of their efforts to improve the delivery of their technical cooperation programmes and of the system's response to the relevant recommendations of the General Assembly.

56. The 1994 phase of the overall programme would involve its extension to the training of nationals in the design and management of United Nations development cooperation programmes, for which three workshops at country level would be organized. The programme was being conducted by the ILO International Training Centre at Turin with the guidance of CCPOQ and its Advisory Panel on Training.

57. As stressed in paragraphs 43-46 of resolution 47/199, common system-wide training programmes offered excellent potential for promoting effective and innovative execution modalities. They would continue to be the subject of constant review within the ACC machinery.

VI. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES INVOKING ARTICLE 50 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

58. By its decision 1993/313 of 29 July 1993, the Economic and Social Council noted with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General, including those made in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, in mobilizing and coordinating assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, and requested him to continue those efforts and report on the outcome thereof in the next overview report of ACC.

59. The annual overview report of ACC for 1992 had reviewed the efforts made by the United Nations system to provide assistance to the 21 affected States that had invoked Article 50 of the Charter, in order to alleviate the special economic problems arising from the implementation by them of Security Council resolution 661 (1990), imposing sanctions against Iraq (E/1993/47/Add.1). In

addition, the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/25036) regarding the question of special economic problems of States as a result of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations (A/48/573-S/26705) contains, in its relevant sections, more detailed information on the activities undertaken by the international financial institutions (the World Bank and IMF), the regional development banks and UNDP.

60. Although emergency operations and special assistance projects on behalf of the 21 affected countries were largely completed, ongoing activities of the relevant components of the United Nations system, within their competence and available resources, continued to take account of the special economic problems of the affected countries and other, longer-term consequences of the Gulf crisis.

61. The new case in point was the response of the United Nations system, under Article 50 of the Charter, to the special economic problems of eight countries adversely affected by the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The background of the matter was described in the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on Article 50 (A/48/573-S/26705) which was made available to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session under agenda item 169, entitled "Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)". It should be recalled that, by letters dated 6 July, 9 August and 20 December (S/26056, S/26282 and S/26905, respectively), the President of the Security Council transmitted to the Secretary-General, for information and appropriate action, the recommendations adopted by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia in respect of the applications for assistance under the terms of Article 50 of the Charter, submitted by Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Uganda and Ukraine (S/26040), Albania (S/26040/Add.1), and Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (S/26040/Add.2). Accordingly, the Secretary-General addressed, on 21 July and 13 September 1993 and 13 January 1994, letters to the executive heads of the competent organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions and the regional development banks, requesting them to provide him, on a regular basis, with information on action taken by them to alleviate the special economic problems of the affected States.

62. A total of 22 organizations in the United Nations system responded to date to the letters of the Secretary-General. They included replies received from the following specialized agencies: ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank, IMF, IMO, IFAD, UNIDO, and GATT. United Nations programmes and funds, including UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP/UNCHS, UNFPA and WFP, also responded. In addition, replies were received from the regional commissions (ECA, ECE and ESCWA) and the regional development banks (African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank). Copies of the communications were made available to the members of the Security Council and were transmitted to its Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) and, subsequently, to its Working Group on Article 50.

63. The replies received reflected the shared concern of the system about the special economic problems of the eight affected countries that had invoked Article 50 of the Charter and confirmed that all concerned organizations had taken due note of the recommendations of the Security Council Committee and the follow-up appeals for assistance. Most of the organizations contemplated intensifying, within their respective mandates and available financial resources, their assistance activities and technical cooperation programmes in the countries concerned, as specifically outlined in their replies.

64. As regards additional measures or special assistance projects in response to the immediate hardships encountered and urgent needs faced by the affected countries, the information received was largely of a preliminary nature. In the first instance, both the international financial institutions (IMF and the World Bank) and UNDP had been endeavouring, at the request of or with the concurrence of the affected countries, to assess the extent of the negative impact of sanctions on their economies, in order to assist them in developing appropriate policy responses and in preparing financial requirements for remedial measures. ECA and ECE indicated their willingness to contribute to the process. Efforts to overcome the severe problems being encountered in collecting the necessary data continued.

65. In terms of direct financial and material assistance, IMF summarized its recent financial arrangements with the affected countries and the status of negotiations on the new requests. The World Bank provided information on its balance-of-payments support and project financing in several affected countries. The African Development Bank, indicated, inter alia, that, in recognition of some negative effects of the adjustment measures, it had approved in August 1993 a poverty alleviation loan amounting to US$ 14 million for Uganda. WFP reported that Uganda, in addition to current development projects, was granted emergency assistance (US$ 15 million).

66. Certain agencies and bodies of the United Nations system (e.g., ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, ECA, ECE, UNCTAD and UNDP) expressed their willingness to identify and implement, within their competence and to the extent resources permitted, additional assistance activities on behalf of the affected countries and to report thereon to the Secretary-General. Most recently, several agencies and programmes (World Bank, IMF, UNIDO, UNDP, ECE) participated at a special ad hoc meeting of senior officials to identify international projects to assist affected States in the region to better cope with the effects of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), which was held in Vienna from 31 January to 1 February 1994 under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Further information to be received from the relevant entities of the United Nations system in that regard would be reflected in the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 48/210, "Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)", to be submitted to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

VII. FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL ISSUES

A. Personnel and general administrative issues

1. Managerial effectiveness and accountability

67. ACC, at its second regular session in 1993, requested CCAQ, in regard to its work for the development of a system-wide strategy to improve managerial effectiveness and accountability, to present its proposals for review by ACC in 1994.

68. An important objective of the exercise was to assist the top management of the organizations of the common system to build management teams as a crucial element of current efforts to reinvigorate the international civil service. The specific proposals being elaborated to that end focused on the strengthening of management competencies and core skills and on the development of a more rigorous performance review process - the latter being an important precondition for an effective performance award system - and the creation of a performance management climate across the common system.

69. ACC also approved, on the recommendation of CCAQ, a policy statement on the prevention of sexual harassment and reviewed ongoing matters related to the conditions of employment of staff in the United Nations common system. As in the past, it had the benefit of contributions from the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and representatives of the staff bodies (FICSA and CCISUA).

2. Other issues

70. WHO's policy of not sponsoring international AIDS conferences in countries that placed short-term travel restrictions on HIV-infected people and people with AIDS was approved by ACC in October 1993 for application throughout the United Nations system. According to the policy, WHO and other organizations of the system would not sponsor, co-sponsor or financially support international conferences or meetings on AIDS in countries with entry requirements that discriminated solely on the basis of a persons's HIV status.

B. Financial issues

1. Financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system

71. During 1993, ACC continued to concern itself with the financial position and prospects of the organizations of the system, giving particular attention to the problem of delayed payment of contributions under assessed regular budgets.

72. Statistics collected under the auspices of ACC showed that at 30 June 1993, nearly $1,300 million, or over 48 per cent of the total contributions of some $2,690 million due for the year under assessed regular budgets throughout the

system, had not been paid. At the same date, cumulative arrears of assessed contributions for prior years amounted to nearly $860 million, or about 32 per cent of total 1993 assessments. While many major contributors scrupulously fulfilled their financial obligations, the amounts due from some such contributors accounted for all but about $150 million of the amounts unpaid for 1993 and all but about $195 million of the cumulative arrears for prior years.

73. The above figures should be read against the background of the organizations' financial regulations, which generally provided that assessed contributions were due and payable on 1 January of the year to which they related. As ACC has indicated on previous occasions, the cash shortfalls created by late payments of assessed contributions, combined with uncertainties about the time at which payments would be received, had led a number of organizations to make severe reductions in programme activities and supporting infrastructures. A review held by CCAQ(FB) in early September 1993 indicated that in several organizations it had been necessary not only to pursue that course but to introduce even more stringent restrictions on activities.

74. With regard to voluntary contributions, which financed a large number of the organizations' operational programmes, it was reported to CCAQ(FB) that UNDP, the major recipient of resources for such programmes in the system, had been obliged to make a large downward revision in its income estimates. That had resulted from a reduction in the contributions of several donors and the strengthening of the United States dollar vis-à-vis other currencies received. UNDP field offices had been advised that programmes should be planned on the assumption that only 75 per cent of established indicative planning figures would be available for the fifth programming cycle.

75. Reviews of the organizations' financial situation were scheduled to continue at each of the semi-annual sessions of CCAQ(FB).

2. Accounting standards

76. In the autumn of 1993 ACC approved a set of common accounting standards for the United Nations system, developed by CCAQ(FB), further to a request in General Assembly decision 46/445 of 20 December 1991. The common standards were placed before the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, further to its decision 47/449, of 22 December 1992.

77. The common standards, worked out with the cooperation of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, reflected generally accepted accounting practice while also taking account of requirements specific to the organizations of the system. They were based essentially on standards promulgated by the International Accounting Standards Committee, supplemented by recommendations of authoritative professional bodies concerned with accounting in the public sector.

78. As far as possible, the common standards were designed to set system-wide norms, and their full application was expected to require a certain number of

changes in organizations' financial regulations and rules, and in existing financial systems and procedures. Therefore, the complete process of adaptation to their provisions was expected to extend over several years. In the meantime interorganization work was planned on the harmonization of financial reports and statements on a priority basis, as a complement to the standards. The standards themselves were subject to review, extension and amendment in the light of circumstances and once experience had been gained with the application of the existing text.

79. In its resolution 48/216, of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the report in which the Secretary-General had submitted the standards for its attention, reiterated its previous request that they should be taken into account in the preparation of organizations' financial statements for the period ending 31 December 1993, and further requested a report at its fifty-first session on the application and development of the standards.

3. Programme budgets for jointly-financed activities under the auspices of ACC

80. In relation to the follow-up action on its conclusions on the functioning of its subsidiary machinery (see sect. I of this report), ACC undertook through CCAQ(FB) a detailed review of the budgetary requirements of subsidiary bodies whose secretariats are financed on an interorganizational basis. (In cases where secretariat services for ACC subsidiary bodies are made available by individual organizations, the costs are subject to the budgetary review procedures and controls of the organization concerned.) The review was based on the principle that there should be zero real growth in interorganizational budgets or staff resources and that economies should be actively sought, where available, subject to possible reallocations of resources among the budgets.

4. Other financial issues

81. In the course of its work in budgetary, financial and related questions during the period covered by this report, ACC also, inter alia:

(a) Reviewed expenditures incurred by the United Nations in 1992 for interorganizational security measures at field locations and the sharing of those costs by the organizations concerned;

(b) Adopted, in response to a communication from the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, a statement on the question of independent audits requested by donors of extrabudgetary funds and management reviews requested by States. The ACC statement was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session in document A/48/587 (10 November 1993);

(c) Pursued confidential interorganizational exchanges on deposit and investment arrangements, with a view to the safeguarding of the organizations' cash assets;

(d) Examined the progress made by individual organizations in developing systems and arrangements in areas of common interest - notably, financial and administrative computer systems, support-cost charges for activities financed by trust funds, and standard provisions for trust-fund agreements.

VIII. ELEMENTS OF ACC'S PROGRAMME IN 1994

82. ACC will continue to pursue, during the course of the year, its efforts to strengthen the contribution of the United Nations system to development cooperation. To that end, it will, as indicated above, initiate a comprehensive review of policy issues relating to the division of labour within the system and the system's access to resources.

83. With a view to enhancing the impact and effectiveness of its work, ACC has, over the past two years, focused its attention on a limited number of priority areas on the international agenda. It has paid particular attention to the support requirements of intergovernmental bodies, particularly the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, and to system-wide issues emerging from both the preparatory and the follow-up phases of major intergovernmental processes.

84. Thus, in order to ensure effective system-wide follow-up to the Rio Summit, ACC, in addition to setting up the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development, has kept the matter as a standing item on its own agenda. It will continue to do so in 1994, taking into full account the evolution of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. System-wide support for the Population and Women's Conferences and for the 1995 Summit on Social Development will likewise be promoted and carefully monitored at the inter-agency level.

85. The advancement of human rights in their respective fields of competence is a crucial dimension of the mandates of most of the organizations of the system. Given the important system-wide implications of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Rights, ACC will, during the year, endeavour to put into place the elements of a concerted strategy by the system for the follow-up of that Conference.

86. Deeply concerned about the continuing gravity of the economic situation in Africa, and taking into account the preliminary review of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s carried out by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, ACC will give priority attention, during the year, to the response of the system to the challenge of promoting African economic recovery and development, on the basis of careful preparations by its subsidiary bodies and other concerned inter-agency mechanisms.

87. In addition, ACC intends to revert to the preparations for the observance, in 1995, of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. A number of specialized agencies will also be celebrating their anniversaries between 1994

and 1996. ACC's consideration of the matter should serve to promote close cooperation and coordination among the organizations of the system in the development of their respective programmes. More importantly, it should enable ACC to define common, system-wide objectives and to consider how the United Nations anniversary might be utilized to bring about greater public support for the work of the system and a more comprehensive and balanced understanding of the complex challenges facing it.

88. Within the ACC subsidiary machinery, the policy guidelines embodied in General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 48/209 are providing new impetus and direction to inter-agency consultations in CCPOQ on ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness and responsiveness of the United Nations development system. The strengthening of the resident coordinator system will be given special attention.

89. In the administrative and financial area, a number of crucial issues are on the agenda of the CCAQ in 1994. The outcome of the Committee's discussions, and action thereon by ACC, should serve to advance the objective of a more effective and coherent management of the financial and human resources available to the system.

90. The outcome of these and other activities of ACC and its subsidiary bodies will, as in the past, be reflected in its next annual overview report.

Notes

1/ In accordance with the relevant recommendation of the Task Force, the functions of the Committee would be to provide advice and medium- and long-term strategic views to the ACC on information systems technology and services, including the elaboration of proposals on priorities and their implications across the United Nations system, and the development of proposed policies, standards and practices to ensure wider accessibility of information; to recommend limited areas of information technology which might require standardization with mandatory force (the areas of telecommunications, descriptive codes etc.); to advise on those areas where recommended practices might be adopted, thus allowing for the needs of particular entities (these areas might be database practices, records management and archives, disaster recovery etc.); to review the implementation of information and telecommunication systems standards and recommended practices by the United Nations system organizations; to provide a forum for the exchange of information among the organizations; to provide an electronic repository on information system developments within the United Nations system; and to prepare reports to the ACC on information management issues.

2/ For the full text of the Chairman's summary, see "Report of the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of CPC/ACC" (E/1994/4).